

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 33.1 L 27.7	H 34.4 L 26.2	H 31.8 L 26.0	H 36.0 L 27.7	H 34.5 L 27.5	H 32.7 L 27.2	H 32.7 L 27.4	H 32.5 L 26.1

Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:22pm and rises tomorrow at 5:38am.** Country's highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and lowest 25.0 in Feni.

BCL groups chase each other at CU

400 cops fan out around three dorms as tension mounts; faction leaders say 'problem solved'

CU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League's (BCL) two factions at Chittagong University chased each other yesterday, adding to the tension created on the campus the day before, when they clashed for allegedly taking control of Suhrawardy Hall.

Tuesday's clash between the supporters of CU BCL President Mohammad Alamgir and the unit General Secretary Fazle Rabby Sujan, injured two activists and a police constable.

Witnesses said the tension was heightened yesterday when the president's men chased Alauddin Alam, a loyalist of the general secretary, adjacent to Shahjalal Hall around 10:00am.

Soon afterwards, both groups organised and chased each other, they said.

Police and the proctorial team brought

the situation under control.

On Tuesday, Officer-in-Charge (investigation) of Hathazari Police Station Md Salauddin said they heard that the two groups were fighting over taking control of Suhrawardy Hall.

When asked, Alamgir denied the allegation and said Tuesday's situation was a result of misunderstanding between some junior activists.

"We solved it, and there is no factionalism now," he said.

Sujan also claimed that they eliminated their differences but said taking control of the hall was one of the reasons leading to the situation.

Hathazari OC Md Ismail said about 400 police personnel fanned out around Shah Amanat, Suhrawardy and Shahjalal halls yesterday to prevent further chaos.



Bangladesh Rural Journalists Foundation forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press club in the capital yesterday demanding unconditional release of journalist Shawkat Mahmud, who was arrested in the city's Panthapath on August 18 in arson cases. PHOTO: STAR

Rabies vaccines scarce for Ctg division poor

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Poor dog bite victims in rural areas of Chittagong division have to travel all the way to the port city because only two hospitals there provide free rabies vaccines.

There were cases where the family of the patient could not afford the travel or vaccine costs and turned to local shamans for "treatment".

"Thus they make a grave mistake," said Dr Rupa Dutta, a medical officer at Chittagong General Hospital (CGH), one of the two state-run healthcare facilities giving free rabies vaccines.

She saw patients die because of

not taking the vaccine on time.

Rabies is a 100 percent vaccine-preventable disease, but fatal in all almost cases if the patient shows symptoms, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Chittagong Civil Surgeon Dr Sarfaraj Khan Chowdhury said neither Chittagong Medical College Hospital nor the upazila health complexes, numbering 14 in Chittagong district, did have free rabies vaccines.

Dr Rupa cited at least two cases, one of a 60-year-old woman of Bandarban and the other of a seven-year-old girl, where the patients could not be saved because they had turned to local shamans.

As rabies mainly occurs in poor communities, according to WHO, the absence of the immunisation service at upazila hospitals appears to be a drawback in the country's healthcare system.

A salesman in Boalkhali upazila, Pankaj Barua, had to take one day's leave and travelled to the general hospital to have his daughter immunised.

CGH vaccinates 10 patients on average daily, and sometimes the number goes up to 30, said Dr Rupa.

Jhantu Rudra, a farmer of Satkania upazila, got his son vaccinated at CGH free but at CMCH he would have to pay Tk 600 for each of the four vials required.

Dr Anu Sen Das, another medical officer of CGH, said about two lakh people were bitten by dogs, cats and foxes annually in the country; of them 2,000 contacted rabies.

He said vaccines must be taken as soon as a person came under attack by these animals.

If the victim washes the wound by soap or antiseptic, 70 percent of germs are destroyed, and then s/he should take the vaccine, he told The Daily Star.

The physician said symptoms started with fear of water, fear of flying alongside fever and abnormal behaviour, adding that they usually showed within 10 days to three months but in some rare

cases, they might appear in seven days or after two years.

Dr Alauddin Majumder, director (health), Chittagong Division, said rabies vaccines were free in all district general hospitals of the country but not in the upazila health complexes.

Civil Surgeon Sarfaraj said he had written to the health ministry requesting it to make anti-rabies vaccines available at all upazila health complexes of Chittagong to serve the poor.

The other government hospital providing free rabies vaccines in the region is the Bangladesh Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases, Faujdarhat.

NEWS IN brief

Even Ershad detects curbing of press freedom
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday criticised the government for what he said curbing press freedom.

"The government is restricting the freedom of the press. The media cannot write or express their opinions now. They have to say whatever the government wants them to say," he said, addressing party men from Barguna at his Banani office.

The special envoy to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also alleged that the ruling Awami League men were grabbing lands of Hindus who had voted the party to power.

"Hindus voted the Awami League to power. Now their lands are being grabbed. Who will you complain against? Everyone belongs to the ruling party," he said.

The former autocrat also slammed the administration, saying people did not have security at present.

Security guard killed, colleague injured in Dhaka city road crash
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An on-duty security guard was killed and his colleague injured when an unidentified vehicle run them over at the foot of Khilgaon flyover in the capital early today.

Mozammel, 60, was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital after he and his injured colleague Elahi, 55, were taken there, said Assistant Sub-inspector Sentu Das of DMCH police outpost. The accident occurred around 12:45am, said their colleague Enamul Haq.

Titas severs 150 illegal gas lines
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Titas Gas yesterday disconnected 150 illegal gas connections to houses at Faridpur Poschimpara of Sreepur in Gazipur.

Around 3km illegal distribution lines, installed to supply gas, have also been removed during the drive conducted by Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd, Bhaluka office.

A syndicate in exchange for money illegally gives the connections from high-powered gas transmission lines of factories in the area, said a Titas Gas official.

Man killed by tenant in capital
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed allegedly by his paying guest following a feud over house rent in Hajirbagh-Nabinagar area of the capital's Jatrabari yesterday.

Police said Shah Alam, 40, slapped Bahar, his paying guest, following an altercation on Tuesday night as he had not been paying his room rent for three months.

In vengeance, Bahar, a bus helper, stabbed Alam in his chest while he was asleep and fled. Later, Alam died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, police added.

Two of a family injured in house fire die in DMCH
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man and his five-year-old son, who were injured in a fire incident in South Keraniganj on Friday, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

Ripon Mia and his son Abdul Gani, along with three other family members, were injured in the fire originated from an electric short circuit. Ripon sustained 65 percent burn injury while Gani 40 percent, DMCH sources said.

Ripon's wife Malida, daughter Ripa Akter, and another son Monir Hossain are undergoing treatment at the hospital.



Eldest practicing lawyer in the country TH Khan, second from right in the photo on the left, cast his ballot in the election to the Bangladesh Bar Council, the licensing body for lawyers, on the High Court premises yesterday. Dr Kamal Hossain, the most prominent constitutional lawyer also one of the framers of the charter does the same, right. The main battle is believed to be fought between two panels -- Awami League-backed Sammilito Ainjibi Samannoy Parishad and pro-BNP Jatiyatatabadi Ainjibi Oikya Panel, led respectively by M Amir ul-Islam and Khandker Mahub Hossain. Voting was held all over the country in a festive and peaceful manner between 10:00am and 5:00pm. Attorney General Mahubey Alam was the chief election commissioner. PHOTO: STAR



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Obituary
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Veteran freedom fighter Barendra Kumar Tripura died of old-age complications at his Khagrachhari residence yesterday morning. He was 96.

He was an administrative officer of the south-east command of the Mujibnagar Government.

Barendra's youngest son Nabo Bikram Kishore Tripura is secretary to Ministry of CHT Affairs and chairman of CHT Development Board.

He left two sons, and two daughters to mourn his death. His cremation will be held today, said a press release.

State Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Affairs Bir Bahadur U Shwe Sing mourned his death.

Dhaka seeks China's help for first ever marine aquarium
DIPLOMAT CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka has sought cooperation of the Chinese government in setting up the first ever marine aquarium in Bangladesh.

Responding to the request at a delegation-level talk at the foreign ministry yesterday, the visiting Chinese team agreed to cooperate with Bangladesh in capacity building of institutions and human resources in maritime and blue economy of the Bay of Bengal to make optimal use of maritime resources.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali and visiting Chinese Commerce Minister Gao Hucheng led the delegations at the hour-long talk, which discussed a host of issues covering ongoing development activities, Chinese investment in Special Economic Zones and other issues of common concern.

Gao mentioned that a Chinese company, China Aquatic Corporation, would look into Dhaka's request of setting up the marine aquarium at the National Oceanographic Research Institute (NORI) in Cox's Bazar.

On "One Belt-One Road" initiative of Chinese President Xi Jinping, the visiting Chinese minister emphasised that the initiative would enhance communication, coordination of national policies and overall people-to-people contact between and among all the countries involved.

Khaleda always trying to destroy Hasina: Ashraf
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP and its chief Khaleda Zia are trying every minute to eliminate Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her party, Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam said yesterday, cautioning party men against internal division and feud.

"If you think you are safe after coming to power, you are wrong. We'll have to be on the alert always. If we ignore everything, create division and engage in feuds, we'll get weak and they (conspirators) will launch attacks," he said.

Ashraf was speaking at a discussion organised by the Jatiya Sramik League at the capital's Mahanagar Natya Mancha, marking the grenade attack on an Awami League rally on August 21, 2004.

The AL leader urged the party men not to create chaos for the interest of the country, SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Breastfeeding goes up by 40 percent
FROM PAGE 3

development organisations joined the initiative under the management of FHI 360, a US-based organisation.

Dr Tina Sanghvi, country programme director and senior technical advisor, Alive & Thrive said Bangladesh's improvement in breastfeeding was better than Vietnam and Ethiopia where the exclusive breastfeeding increased from 19 percent to 58 and 72 percent to 83 respectively.

Complementary feeding with diet diversity increased in Bangladesh from 32 percent to 64, she said.

Schoolteacher suspended
FROM PAGE 4

In 2011, the High Court declared all types of corporal punishment in schools "illegal and unconstitutional".

If a person is convicted of committing the offence, he or she will be awarded up to five years imprisonment or fined Tk 1 lakh or both.

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